

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6931

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 6931 VICE 6930)

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XE, KN, KS, UN

SUBJ: NAC: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON THE FAR EAST

REF: STATE 296476 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AT DECEMBER 17 NORTHATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) MEETING, CANADIAN PERMREP SAID HIS COUNTRY WILL PROPOSE TO INTERESTED COUNTRIES THAT EARLY TALKS BE HELD IN NEW YORK ON KOREAN QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COMMENTING ON NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST, MENZIES (CANADA) RECOMMENDED THAT TERM "EAST ASIA" BE USED FOR THE REPORT IN FUTURE, POINTING OUT THAT FOR HIS COUNTRY THE "FAR EAST" WAS IN REALITY THE FAR WEST. CHAIRMAN PANSA AGREED TO THIS SUGGESTION.

2. MENZIES CONTINUED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT ALLIES WILL SEND THE "BEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES" TO FUTURE CONFIDENTIAL

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REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS, AND THAT THE QUALITY OF THESE EXPERTS BE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS THAT OF REPRESENTATIVES SENT TO THE EC-NINE FAR EAST COMMITTEE. HE FURTHER HOPED THAT, AT FUTURE MEETINGS, THE EAST ASIAN EXPERTS WOULD DELVE MORE

DEEPLY INTO QUESTIONS OF SPECIFIC CONCERN TO NATO, SUCH AS CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, THE WEST'S RELATIONS WITH ASEAN, AND THE FUTURE OF SOUTH KOREA. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN THE NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

3. REFERRING TO THE RECENT UNGA VOTES ON KOREA, MENZIES TERMED THE PRESENT SITUATION UNDESIRABLE AND SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT INTERESTED COUNTRIES SHOULD MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. IN PARTICULAR, OTTAWA BELIEVES THIS DISCUSSION SHOULD COVER THE STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE FUTURE VICTORY FOR THE PRO-NORTH KOREAN POSITION AT THE UNGA. MENZIES SAID THAT CANADIAN EMBASSIES WILL BE APPROACHING ALLIES IN CAPITALS TO PROPOSE SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

4. BRUCE (US) DREW ON REFTEL IN COMMENTING ON EXPERTS REPORT.

5. KILLICK (UK) REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE FAR EAST REPORT THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A REASONABLE POSSIBILITY THAT CHINA WITHIN THE NEXT 25 YEARS CAN ATTAIN MAJOR ECONOMIC POWER STATUS. HE RECALLED THAT THE SAME ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED AT THE RESTRICTED SESSION OF THE NAC MINISTERIAL, AND THAT ONE SPEAKER THOUGHT THAT CHINA MIGHT REQUIRE ONLY TEN YEARS TO REACH SUCH A POSITION. KILLICK SUGGESTED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE TIME SCALE FOR CHINA'S POSSIBLE EMERGENCE AS A MAJOR ECONOMIC POWER MIGHT BE A LINE OF INQUIRY WORTH PURSUING IN NATO.

6. VILLADSEN (DANISH CHARGE) NOTED THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RECENTLY VISITED THAILAND AND FOUND THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND CAMBODIA. THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKED TO HIS DANISH COLLEAGUE THAT THAILAND IS "NOT A MEMBER OF THE DOMINO CLUB. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

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